

**EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER.** William McKenzie, M.B., B. Chir. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Surgeon, Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, E. and S. Livingston, Ltd. (Distributed through Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore), 1952. 136 pages, \$2.00.

This small volume was obviously written for the English physician and most of us in the United States will find it disappointing. The author planned to make the descriptions in the book dependent on the use of the tongue blade only. Discussions are sketchy and incomplete. The recommendations for treatment seem to lack therapeutic aggressiveness. For example he recommends a week in bed as the treatment for tonsillitis, stating that the disease is self-limited. One of the best sections of the book is that on indications for tonsillectomy in childhood; it is excellent. There are many practical suggestions tucked away here and there, but they are too widely separated to justify recommending this book for the physician's reading. The sections on diseases of the ear, nose, and throat in the current textbooks of minor surgery or the "Specialties in General Practice" are much superior in their treatment of this field. This book cannot be recommended.

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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS OF MENTATION AND CEREBRAL PALSIES.** Clemens A. Benda, M.D., Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry, Walter E. Fernald State School, Waverley, Mass.; Instructor in Neuropathology, Harvard Medical School. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 565 pages, 103 illustrations, \$12.75.

This is a very important book, more so even for the pediatrician than for the neurologist and psychiatrist. The author, well grounded both in organic neurology and in psychiatry, is well equipped to bring together in one volume a very complete consideration of all of the disorders of development and accidents of birth. The book is divided into five parts: Antenatal developmental disorders, cerebral palsies, metabolic disorders and degenerative diseases, total personality disorders, and principles of treatment. The illustrations are well chosen to illuminate the text, which is clear and concise. It is the author's plea that more attention be paid to these disorders, with a resulting more intelligent handling of the children that he prefers to term "exceptional." His breadth of viewpoint is refreshing, and a perusal of his book will benefit not only the specialists who treat such patients, but the general physician, who is the first called upon by the parents for counsel and guidance.

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**CARDIAC EMERGENCIES AND HEART FAILURE.** Arthur M. Master, M.D., Cardiologist, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York; Marvin Moser, M.D., 1st Lt. USAF (MC), Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D. C.; and Harry L. Jaffe, M.D., Adjunct Physician, Cardiology, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, Pa., 1952. 159 pages, 13 illustrations, \$3.00.

This small book fulfills the need of a concise assembly of the measures used in treating cardiovascular emergencies and congestive heart failure and should occupy a place in the practicing physician's handbag.

The tabulation of drugs that should be available in that handbag is a unique and valuable introduction to the text. Short diagnostic sections and physiologic discussions are incorporated in some chapters and the frequent brief case histories illustrate effectively the management of specific problems. The treatment of cardiac arrhythmias and congestive heart failure is well presented and exceptionally thorough. Such accepted current drugs and procedures as pronestyl and positive pressure oxygen masks are carefully appraised as to indication and application.

The authors' opinions in the differentiation of myocar-

dial infarctions arising from coronary insufficiency and from coronary occlusion hardly warrant the space devoted since therapy differs little.

The discussion of the treatment of the acute hypertensive crises is not as complete as the reviewer would desire as it fails to include comment on some drugs such as hexamethonium or intravenous veratrum alkaloids, nor is venesection mentioned in this chapter.

The opinions of certain physicians may occasionally disagree with those of the authors such as in the treatment of shock in myocardial infarction or the technique of applying anticoagulant drugs, but the safest and most effective methods of therapy have been presented in almost all instances.

The book is well written and indexed and contains a remarkable amount of practical information ingeniously compressed.

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**THE AURICULAR ARRHYTHMIAS.** Myron Prinzmetal, M.D., Elliot Corday, M.D., Isidor C. Brill, M.D., Robert W. Oblath, M.D., and H. E. Kruger. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1952. 387 pages, \$16.50.

This excellent monograph presents in detail the authors' experimental and clinical investigation of the auricular ectopic rhythms. Their methods of investigation which utilize the electrocardiograph, the cathode oscillograph, and high speed cinematography of the beating auricles have produced crucial information which was not previously available.

Convincing evidence of the origin and spread of the impulse in auricular tachycardia, flutter and fibrillation is presented and documented by remarkably clear illustrative material. The circus movement theory of auricular flutter and fibrillation is clearly disproven to the authors' and reviewer's satisfaction, and flutter is demonstrated to be a variant of auricular tachycardia. The chapter on pharmacology and treatment are excellent and incorporate the authors' views of the mode of action of digitalis and quinidine in the arrhythmias.

The format, print and paper are of unusual excellence, and the illustrations show remarkable effort of both authors and publisher for clarity of reproduction.

This book can be highly recommended for medical students and practitioners who are interested in heart disease. It will be an essential addition to the libraries of cardiologists, physiologists and electrocardiographic laboratories.

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**VIRUS AND RICKETTSIAL DISEASES.** S. P. Bedson, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Professor of Bacteriology, London Hospital; A. W. Downie, D.Sc., M.D., Professor of Biology, University of Liverpool; F. O. MacCallum, B.Sc., M.D., Director Virus Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory; C. H. Stuart-Harris, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Medicine, University of Sheffield. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. 383 pages, \$5.50.

The viruses have received increasing attention from textbook writers in the last five years. The excellent book edited by Rivers, and the monumental "Virus Diseases of Man" by van Rooyen and Rhodes, have filled a much needed space on the shelves of specialists and investigators. Now a group of English authors headed by S. P. Bedson have written a most suitable text for medical students and physicians in general. Brief but complete, readable and accurate, it supplies just the sort of information and interpretations which are required in the day to day consideration of the clinical problems of virus infection in man.

Ample bibliographies, critically selected, are supplied. This book is highly recommended. It should be required reading for every student. Practitioners will be well rewarded for the few hours required to read it.